

REMARKS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 11-15 and 22 were pending.

Claims 1-10 and 16-21 were previously withdrawn.

Claims 11-14 and 22 have been canceled.

Claim 15 was previously allowed.

Claim 23-24 are newly added.

Accordingly, Claims 15 and 23-24 are pending.

The undersigned recently inherited the prosecution of this application. In reviewing the file, the undersigned recognized that additional claims could be written to slightly broaden the scope of allowed Claim 15.

Accordingly, by this Amendment, the Applicants have added new Claims 23 and 24 to track the spirit of allowed Claim 15, but remove some limitations unnecessary for allowance. Applicants also have canceled certain claims to remove "new matter" raised by the Examiner in the last Office Action. Applicants hereby request reconsideration of the application, as amended.

New Claim 23 includes subparagraphs "a-e." Subparagraphs "a-d" are identical to subparagraphs "a-d" in Claim 15. Subparagraph "e" broadens the language of Claim 15 by not reciting some structure of a locking device recited in subparagraph "e" of Claim 15. The broadened subparagraph, in Claim 23, recites:

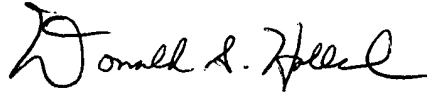
e. the locking device is a plunger lock attached to the receiver, wherein the lock has a plunger that selectively can be extended into an interior of the receiver to block the action or retracted to unblock the action.

None of the prior art discloses or suggests this broadened language, which is further defined by subparagraph "d" of Claim 23. Consequently, Applicants believe that Claim 23 also is allowable over the prior art.

New Claim 24 is presented in Jepson format to claim the allowable invention in its broadest sense. The body of Claim 24 includes language similar to subparagraphs "d" and "e" of Claim 23. Accordingly, Applicants believe that Claim 24 is allowable.

In view of this Amendment, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant request that a Notice of Allowance be granted.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald S. Holland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Donald" being more prominent.

Donald S. Holland
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 29,391
Customer No. 27804
HOLLAND & BONZAGNI, P.C.
171 Dwight Road, Suite 302
Longmeadow, MA 01106-1700
(413) 567-2076

Date: November 15, 2004

[00170P23]